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## INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY Hungary

REPORT

SUBJECT

Uranium Mining in Hungary

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reports on uranium mining in Hungary; one covers several mines, viz. Balatonfured, Bakonya, and Kovagoszolos; two are on the Pecs mines, and one covers prospecting at the new site of Nagy Kovaks.

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1. Equipment used at BALATONFURED for uranium exploration includes:

a) Three 9 cubic metres diesel air-compressors. They are

Russian K 9 machines and were delivered new from MOSCOW.

They were made in 1955.

b) Five 5 cubic metres compressors. These were Hungarian

'MAVAS' machines, made in BUDAPEST in 1948.

c) Russian pneumatic drills, 9 kgs.

d) Russian hoists:

500 kgs. nominal load for operating at depths of 50-60 metres.

The buckets were of 400 litres capacity.

250 kgs. nominal load, for depths of 35-40 metres. 150 litre bucket.

100 kgs. for depths of 10-15 metres. 30-50 litre bucket.

50 kgs. for depths of 5-15 metres. Bucket held 25-30 kgs.

(not litres).

2. Machinery at BAKONYA included three 9 cubic metre diesel compressors, used to supplement the air piped from the PECS mines at KOVAGO-SZOLOS. (The latter supplied air only for the main shafts at BAKONYA.)

3. A concrete road, six metres wide, has recently been completed and connects the test-mines at BAKONYA with the mines at KOVAGO-SZOLOS. It winds through the hills between the two places, and joins the road connecting the village of KOVAGO-SZOLOS with the nearby mines, at a point just north of the new eight-block miners' housing estate.

The BAKONYA mines, when in full production, will produce more uranium-ore than KOVAGO-SZOLOS.

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1. The headquarters of the PECS Uranium Mines [redacted] a [redacted] 25X1  
block of offices at SIKLOSI UT 80 in PECS. The buildings were formerly  
occupied by some unspecified military personnel. Workings existed at  
two places. There was a shaft at BAKONYA and another at KOVAGOSZOLLOS.  
Towards the end of 1956 new workings were started between BAKONYA and  
KOVAGOTOTTOS. This new project consisted of a horizontal tunnel running  
30 or 40 metres into the mountain side. About 3,200 Hungarians were  
employed in mining operations, but all senior positions, management,  
engineering and geology, were occupied by Russians. The Director of  
the whole project was a Russian called BOGOMOLOV. One of the geological  
specialists was Boris ZABODALOV.

2. When a shaft had been excavated, the strength of the ore was  
tested by a Hungarian operator, using a geiger counter. From this counter  
numerical readings were obtained. The instrument had two ranges, each  
registering on the same dial. Range 1 was for low grade ore and range 2  
for higher grade material. The dial was calibrated from 0 to 90, the  
highest reading known [redacted] being 80-85 on range 2. Readings 25X1  
were taken every 10 cms. along the walls of the shaft and were recorded  
in a book which was handed to a Russian woman official. The operator  
was not told the significance of the readings nor how they were interpreted.  
The Russian woman was Tamara Vassilievna NAZAROVA, a technical geologist.

3. When the ore was extracted and brought to the surface it was divided  
immediately into high grade and low grade, merely on the basis of the  
readings taken previously by the G.M. operator. The low grade ore was  
considered useless and was not further exploited. The higher grade ore 25X1  
was then taken by road to KOVAGOSZOLLOS, a special road having been built  
for this purpose. This material was then stored in KOVAGOSZOLLOS pending  
the completion of a railway line.

*mmmm* [redacted]

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4. An ore grading plant, described [ ] as very primitive, 25X1  
was built at KOVAGOSZOLLOS from 20th September to 20th October, 1956.  
It was described as a "mechanically operated sieve". A conveyor belt  
carried the ore to the grading department from the dump. There it was  
sorted into three or four separate grades. No information is available  
on the specifications for each grade nor on the precise method of sep-  
aration. 25X1

5. [ ] the uranium ore obtained in the PECS  
area was the second richest in Europe and approximately the same grade  
as that in the JOACHIMSTAL Mines in CZECHOSLOVAKIA. Very little material  
was actually transported from the PECS area up to November 1956 and was  
for research and assay purposes only.

6. There were no very strict precautions against radiation sicknesses.  
The only medical supervision was an examination before a worker was  
taken on and a six-monthly examination of the miners. The Russian  
authorities, in an attempt to cut down the incidence of silicosis,  
introduced the system of drilling through water in order to reduce dust.  
This was resisted by the miners, since it greatly slowed down production  
and thus reduced their pay which was on a piece-work basis.

7. Rumours circulating amongst the PECS workers stated that exploration  
for uranium was taking place during the summer of 1956 at BALATONALMADI,  
near Lake BALATON. Prospecting drillings had been made to a depth of  
150-200 metres.

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Uranium Prospecting at a new site near NAGY KOVACS

1. At the beginning of October 1956 prospecting for uranium was started at a new site near NAGY KOVACS, a village approximately 14 kms. west of BUDAPEST of 2,000 to 3,000 inhabitants. Actual location of the uranium workings is in the forest southwest of NAGY KOVACS and in the Bald Mountains (KOPASZ HEGY). The exact distance from NAGY KOVACS is not known but from the village to the site it takes a man one hour to walk up the hill and half an hour to walk back again.
2. The site was cleared ready for the mechanical diggers at some time during the autumn of 1956 but the work of uncovering the ore had not begun until October. A number of clearings or rides were made in the forest on a grid system. The site, roughly circular, was of a diameter of 3500 metres and the rides, the longest of which were of a length of 3500 metres, were 2 metres wide and 10 metres apart. Within these rides trenches were dug  $1\frac{1}{2}$  metres wide, 60 metres long and  $2\frac{1}{2}$  metres deep. These trenches were dug as random samples over the whole area and at the time of the uprising only 10 such trenches had been dug.
3. It was remarked by those at work on the site that digging became very much easier after a few feet. This was attributed to the presence of radio-active rock. Samples of ore were taken ranging from 1 lb. to 40 lbs. in weight.
4. The ore was sent to JANOSI's laboratory at the Technical University, BUDAPEST; thence to Russia by air; and the empty bags were returned from Russia bearing a MOSCOW postmark.
5. (a) The uranium ore is described as a reddish stone which stains the hands and which after exposure to the air turns grey. The uranium-bearing ore showing on the surface of the rock had the appearance of broken

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/gramophone



gramophone needles distributed throughout the surface at the density

of say 36 to 48 per square inch. The total extraction from the site is estimated at 20/25 10-ton waggon loads, and the bulk of this

extracted ore was left on the site since no roads have been developed

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h it could be transported.

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(b) The measuring instruments used by the Russians for determining the radio activity was seen to record the figures between 4,000 and 4,500.

6. (a) At the beginning of October 1956 a Russian expert, BASAROV (fnu) visited the site.

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(b) The Russian in charge of operations at the site was IGNATOV

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(fnu)

(c) The number of people employed on the site was 17; of these, half were Russians.

#### 7. Security Precautions.

The security precautions are as follows: The whole wooded area is a game preserve which has a wire fence around it. Within the wire fence is the perimeter of the forbidden area (3,500 x 3,500 metres) which before the uprising was guarded by 150 NVHs. All workmen were searched upon leaving, no unauthorised person being allowed in the area. On the outbreak of the uprising the army took over and destroyed all buildings and the trenches but the extent of the damage is not precisely known. The instrument used for measuring the radio activity was carefully guarded at night.

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~~Uranium Mining in PECS~~

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[REDACTED]

The PECS uranium mines are known as the "PECS BAUXITE MINES" or "No.2 EXPEDICIO" as confirmed by the official works stamp [REDACTED]

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2. The mine is located 13 km. north-west of PECS and 12 km. north-east of ST. LORINGZ. In March 1954 trial borings were made which proved extremely satisfactory and mining commenced in that month using the cover name "The Bauxite Mine".

3. Real production began about May 1956. New roads are being built and new railway lines to the mine. The old airfield of PECS is being converted into a housing estate which will be capable of accommodating 10,000 people.

4. The average daily production of the mine was about 30 waggons. 75% of the ore contained silicate.

5. The local handling and disposal of the product which included sorting was done at the minehead. As production was only started recently no information is available as to the final destination of the products. In early 1956 [REDACTED] loads of ore were taken to the railway station and loaded into waggons. The sorting and loading of ore was done at the head main shaft No.2, where various equipment, including photo cells (?scintillation counters), were used.

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6. Samples of the ore were taken to the central experimental station where it was graded. No details available of the route and destination of the despatched samples. Ore from the BAKONYA and TOTUAR mines was also brought to KOVAGOSZOLLOS.

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7. Organisation(a) In PECS.

General Director of the mine: BOGOMOLOV (fnu), a Russian.

GACSI, Sczsef, was a leading Hungarian official.

They had offices in PECS at Siklosi Ut. 60.

(b) In BUDAPEST.

Central Directorate -

Chief of Personnel Department: A.V.H. Major SUMEGI, Laszlo.

Chief of Mining Department: GROSZ, Gyorgy, ruthless Communist party official.

Chief of Boring Department: HORVATH, Elek, Communist Party official.

(c) All prospecting, control of mining, control of the whole area was carried out by the Russians. The area was patrolled by A.V.H. troops.

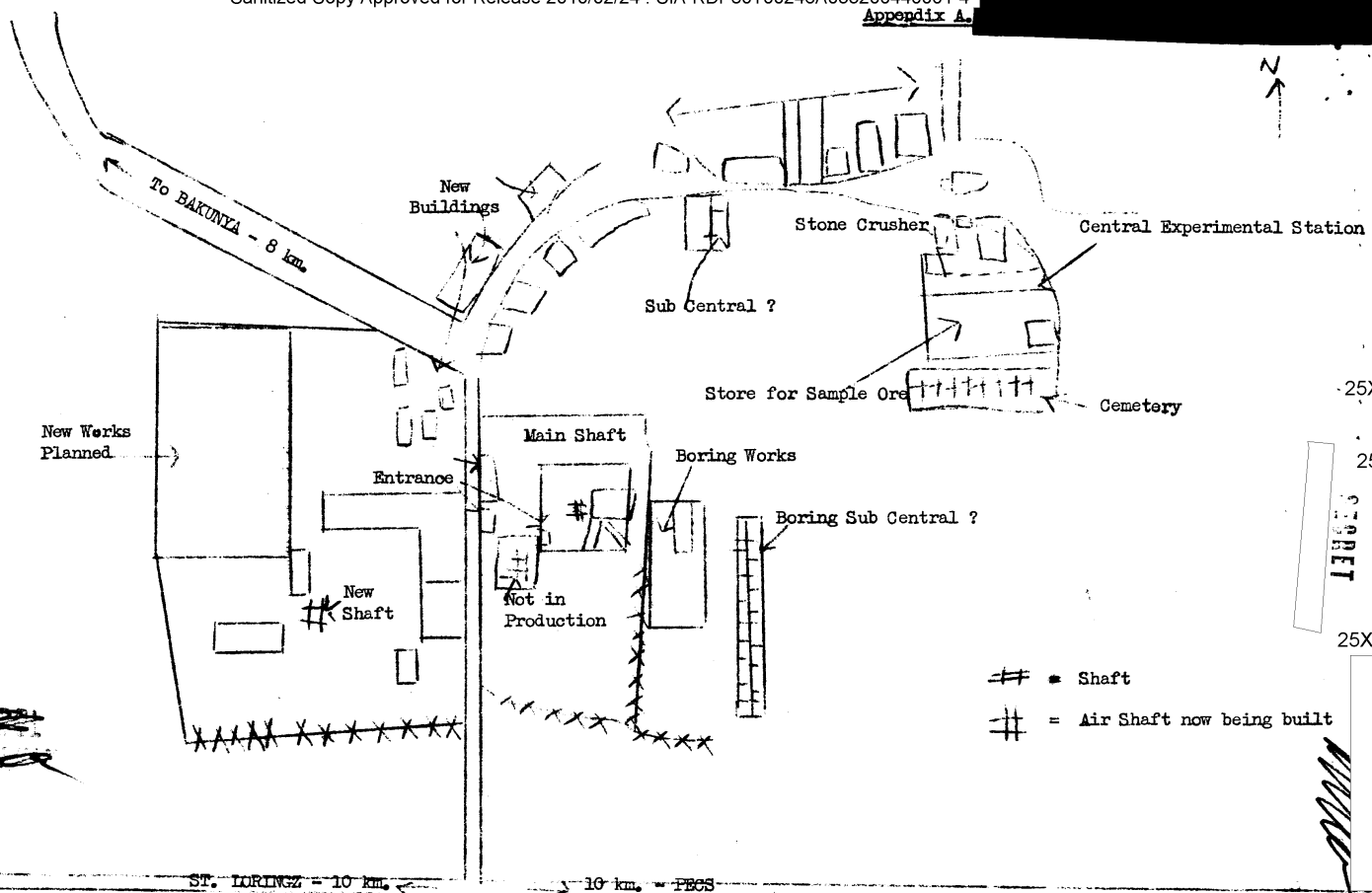
8. A plan of the mine is given at Appendix A. to this report. A rough geological sketch of the mining area is given at Appendix B.

9. Other Uranium Mining Areas.

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[redacted] experimental borings are carried out near BALATON-FURED in the Lake BALATON area and in the SOPRON district mountains where uranium has been found. Clerius 300 and 500 (for 300 and 500 metre depths), BA 40 and BU 40 machines have already been erected in some places.

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Appendix B.

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TOP SOIL

RED SANDSTONE

"BROKEN" RED SANDSTONE

RED SANDSTONE

GREEN-GREY CLAY

URANIUM-BEARING ORE

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U. S. GOVERNMENT